

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A surgical stapler having a distal end onto which a tool assembly having a pair of opposing tissue engaging surfaces can be mounted for deforming a plurality of surgical fasteners through and fasten tissue, the surgical stapler comprising:

a housing having a fixed handle;

a clamping handle mounted to said housing and selectively movable relative to said fixed handle from a first position in spaced relation relative to said fixed handle to a second position closer to said fixed handle to actuate the clamping of tissue;

an adapter yoke which translates within said housing upon actuation of said clamping handle, said adapter yoke mechanically cooperating with a lead screw disposed within said housing to actuate the tool assembly to clamp tissue;

a drive assembly disposed within said housing, said drive assembly including a shaft, said shaft being mechanically engaged with said lead screw such that upon selective activation of said drive assembly, said shaft rotates said lead screw within said housing to advance a roll nut distally along said lead screw to force a firing piston into a tool assembly when mounted on the housing to deform the surgical fasteners through and fastening the tissue.

Claim 2 (Original). A surgical stapler according to claim 1, wherein said drive assembly is pneumatically powered.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). A surgical stapler according to claim 1, wherein said drive assembly is selectively variable to regulate the advancement of said roll nut along said lead screw which, in turn, regulates the speed at which said surgical fasteners are deformed.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented). A surgical stapler according to claim 3, wherein said stapler further comprises a pressure sensitive trigger which regulates the advancement of said roll nut along said lead screw which, in turn, regulates the speed at which said surgical fasteners are deformed.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). A surgical stapler according to claim 1, wherein said stapler includes at least one safety which prevents activation of said drive assembly until said safety is deactivated.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). A surgical stapler according claim 5, wherein said at least one safety is automatically deactivated when said clamping handle is moved to said second position to clamp tissue.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). A surgical stapler according to claim 1, wherein said roll nut includes a firing safety which prevents said roll nut from advancing to force said firing piston until said firing safety is deactivated.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented). A surgical stapler according to claim 1, wherein said stapler includes a switch for reversing the rotation of said shaft of said drive assembly upon activation thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented). A surgical stapler according to claim 1, wherein said shaft rotates upon activation of said drive assembly which in turn rotates said lead screw.

Claims 10-18 (Withdrawn).

Claim 19 (New). A surgical stapler having a distal end onto which a tool assembly having a pair of opposing tissue engaging surfaces can be mounted for deforming a plurality of surgical fasteners through and fasten tissue, the surgical stapler comprising:

a housing having a fixed handle;

an incrementally advancing clamping handle mounted to said housing and selectively movable relative to said fixed handle from a first position in spaced relation relative to said fixed handle to a second position closer to said fixed handle to actuate the clamping of tissue;

an adapter yoke which translates within said housing upon actuation of said clamping handle, said adapter yoke mechanically cooperating with a lead screw to actuate the tool assembly to clamp tissue;

a drive assembly including a shaft, said shaft being mechanically engaged with said lead screw such that upon selective activation of said drive assembly, said shaft rotates said lead screw to advance a roll nut distally along said lead screw to force a firing piston into a tool assembly when mounted on the housing to deform the surgical fasteners through and fastening the tissue;

a pressure sensitive trigger which regulates the advancement of said roll nut along said lead screw which, in turn, regulates the speed at which said surgical fasteners are deformed.